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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional) (b)(3)

Executive Registry 74-3060

FROM:	EXTENSION	NO.
Legislative Counsel		DATE 14 February 1974

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)	DATE RECEIVED	DATE FORWARDED	OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)
1. Director				Attached for your review is a proposed paper on the tapes and transcript situation for use with Baker, Special Prosecutor, [redacted] etc.
2.				We still have a few loose ends to wrap up, interviewing a few people, but we don't expect any surprises and thought you would like to review this soonest.
3.				[redacted] is finalizing the log. It is my recommendation that when that is completed, we show it to [redacted] (and to Jaworski and our other Subcommittee Chairmen if they are interested) but that we not leave it with anyone because of the sensitivity attached to some of the names in it.
4.				
5.				
6.				
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9.				
10.				
11.				
12.				
13.				
14.				
15.				

Wa[redacted]

George L. Cary
Legislative Counsel

[redacted] 14-5

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CIA Tapes and Transcripts of Tapes

I. General

A. Purpose

For many years the offices and phones of the three top CIA officials (Director of Central Intelligence, the Deputy Director of Central Intelligence and the Executive Director-Comptroller) had the capability of recording conversations. These recordings, done on a selective basis, served as note-taking substitutes where accurate recall was needed, particularly in dealing with foreigners whose command of English was limited. This paper covers such recordings made subsequent to 31 December 1969.

B. Systems

1. Phone

Taping of incoming telephone conversations was handled by secretaries in the offices involved.

2. Office

This "room" system was capable of recording conversations in a specific area. This system was supported by technicians in a remote recording facility and a secretary transcriber supervised by the technician.

C. Current Status

The capability for recording telephone calls or office conversations in the offices of the Director, the Deputy Director, and the Executive Director-Comptroller was terminated in early 1973. The telephone and room systems in the DDCI's complex was terminated on 3 February 1972. The telephone and room system in the office of the Executive Director-Comptroller was

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terminated on 5 January 1973. The telephone system in the DCI's suite was terminated on 5 January 1973, while the room system in the DCI's complex was terminated on 17-18 February 1973.

II. Phone Recording Procedure

A. System

A recorder was attached to individual telephone instruments. With few exceptions, the telephone recordings were transcribed in the principals' offices. The tapes and the transcripts were maintained under the exclusive control of that office. In the case of the DCI's phone, a backup recording capability existed at the remote recording facility identified below. Only one telephone recording was transcribed outside of the principals' offices and the only information on the secretary transcriber's log concerning the conversation is that it occurred on 7 October 1970 and one of the parties was Deputy Director of Central Intelligence General Cushman.

B. Tapes

Telephone tapes normally were erased shortly after use and reused. A careful search has failed to disclose the existence of any such tapes.

C. Transcripts

The only transcripts of telephone recordings still extant are those involving conversations between the Deputy Director of Central Intelligence, General Cushman, and Mr. Ehrlichman and other individuals assigned to the White House (see Attachment A). Of the ten such transcripts, only one is Watergate related. It involves the 7 July 1971 conversation between General Cushman and Mr. Erlichman. The transcript of this conversation was provided to all congressional and

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executive investigative bodies as soon as it was discovered. Since telephone recording was used as a note-taking substitute, there is no doubt that memoranda prepared by the principals incorporated some of the substance of the recordings. To the Agency's knowledge, all such memoranda relating to the various "Watergate" investigations have been made available to the congressional and executive investigative bodies concerned.

III. Office Recording Procedure

The system could be activated only in the principals' offices. The recording took place in a remote facility. Once a conversation had been recorded, the technician assigned to the recording facility, working under the exclusive direction and control of the principals' office, was instructed either to destroy, transcribe, or erase the tape. Two recordings were made of each conversation, a primary tape and a backup tape. If a transcript was to be prepared, both tapes were delivered by the technician to a secretary-transcriber who worked under the technician's supervision.

A. Transcription

The secretary-transcriber assigned to the remote recording facility made an original transcription only. The backup tape was insurance against a defective or inaudible primary tape. The transcriber maintained a log which included the date of the recording, the Agency principal by title, the number of participants in the conversation, the location of the

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conversation, the completion date of the transcript, and the date the transcript was delivered to the principals' office by the technician. The transcriber would also mark on the tape container the date of the conversation, the name of the principal, and the name of the guests, when available, and the duration of the recording.

B. The recording technician picked up the two tapes and the transcript from the transcriber, delivered the transcript to the principals' office and stored the primary tape in a safe in the recording facility, after assigning and marking it with a sequential number. If the backup tape was no longer reusable, it was destroyed. If it was reusable, it was erased and placed in the reusable tape file. (Prior to January 1972 the recorded portion of the reusable backup tape was clipped from the reel and destroyed. Subsequently, the recorded portion was only degaussed.) There were 36 conversations recorded during the period 1 January 1972 through 11 January 1973. The Agency has in its possession 36 degaussed, 10 1/2 inch reels of tapes which are believed to have been used as the backup tape for these recordings. All identifying information on the backup tape containers was removed and destroyed.

C. Transcripts

The transcripts were completely controlled by the principals' office.

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IV. Destruction of Office Tapes

A. From 31 December 1969 to 22 January 1973

The technicians assigned to the remote recording facility prepared two separate listings for destruction at different times. The first list consisted of tapes #1 through #185 and was submitted to Mrs. Dunlevy during the last quarter of 1970. The second list covered tapes #184 through #237 and was submitted to Mrs. Dunlevy during the first quarters of 1972. The lists served as the basis for telephonic advice from Mrs. Dunlevy to the technicians to destroy various tapes. The technician's log notes that tapes #1 through #54 (recorded during the period 22 September 1964 through 3 May 1965) were destroyed on 21 January 1972. Another notation indicates that tapes #55 through #183 (recorded during the period 3 May 1965 through 5 June 1970) were destroyed prior to January 1973.

B. 24 January 1973

All other nondegaussed tapes of conversations recorded between 31 December 1969 and 24 January 1973 (except for tape #214 of the Cushman/Hunt conversation of 22 July 1971) were in storage in the recording facility on 24 January 1973 and were destroyed at the instruction of Mrs. Dunlevy. The destruction commenced 24 January 1973 and ended several days thereafter. These included tapes #184 through #275 (recorded during the period 23 June 1970 through 11 January 1973). In this and the previous destruction, the tape containers were also destroyed.

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C. Transcripts

As a normal part of office routine Mrs. Dunlevy, in the process of preparing the office for Dr. Schlesinger (who was confirmed on 23 January 1973 to succeed Mr. Helms) received permission from Mr. Helms to destroy transcripts kept in a safe locked in a vault in the immediate office of the Director. She has stated that none of the transcripts contained any information related to Watergate.

In December 1971 General Cushman's papers were reviewed after he left CIA to become Marine Commandant. Aside from the tape and transcript of the 22 July 1971 Cushman/Hunt conversation, referred to previously and hereafter, the only transcripts retained were those concerning General Cushman's telephone conversations with members of the White House staff, which are covered by Section II-C above.

The recording of conversations in the office of the DDCI was discontinued after General Cushman left CIA in December 1971.

There was only one recording of a conversation in the office of the Executive Director-Comptroller during the period in question. It occurred in June of 1970 and there is no evidence that it was in any way related to Watergate.

V. Records

Based upon a reconstruction of information available in the logs and other supplementary material, and from interviews, we have no evidence to indicate that from the period 31 January 1969 to 24 January 1973 there was any recording of any conversation with any of the principals heretofore publicly identified in connection with the Watergate investigation, except as previously noted above.

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VI. Summary

A. Mr. Helms has stated that, "I never destroyed any tapes or anything else having any remote bearing on 'Watergate'."

B. It is the recollection of Mrs. Dunlevy, who maintained complete control of the transcripts for Mr. Helms, that none of the transcripts were in any way related to "Watergate."

C. To our knowledge only one office conversation relating to subjects of interest to the various "Watergate" investigating bodies was ever recorded, the 22 July 1971 office conversation between General Cushman and Mr. Hunt. A transcript of this conversation has been made available to all congressional and investigating bodies concerned. The primary tape of the conversation is currently in the possession of a congressional committee.

D. All congressional and executive investigating bodies concerned have been provided with all memoranda and information which to the Agency's knowledge is in any way related to the various "Watergate" investigations. Some of the memoranda and information is or may have been the product of the recording of office and telephone conversations.

E. The Agency has no knowledge of the existence of any transcripts of tapes or tapes relating to this matter except as identified above.

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F. The records relating to office conversations which were recorded include sensitive information involving intelligence sources and methods which the Director of Central Intelligence has a statutory responsibility to protect.

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